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PHOTOGRAPHIC
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REPORT

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NEW DEVELOPMENTS AT TAGANROG AIRFRAME PLANT DIMITROV 86

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NEW DEVELOPMENTS AT TAGANROG AIRFRAME PLANT DIMITROV 86

1. A large new aerodynamic vehicle (Figure 1) under development at Taganrog Airframe Plant Dimitrov 86 was seen on high-resolution photography for the first time At the current stage of development the only identifiable component is a large fuselage, which is mostly canvas covered.

2. The vehicle was first observed at Plant 86 it was subsequently seen Since the initial observation, it has remained in the same location–outside a hangar in the south-central area of the plant. That area of Plant 86 has traditionally been associated with the G. M. Beriev Experimental Design Bureau (OKB). Beriev is the leading Soviet designer of seaplanes, and Plant 86 is the only plant in the Soviet Union known to produce seaplanes, with the MAIL (BE-12) currently in production.

3. The large fuselage was not visible at the plant , but was in place when the plant was next photographed. At that time it exhibited the classical characteristics of an aerodynamic fuselage, with a length to width ratio of approximately eleven to one, apparent taper at both ends, and a horizontal disposition. A fence or screen was being erected around it. Three and one-half months elapsed before the next usable coverage of the plant was obtained During that interim the screen around the fuselage had been completed, and rectangular work structures or shelters (probably of wood and stretched canvas) had been drawn up to each side at about the longitudinal midpoint. One end of the fuselage had been enveloped by canvas stretched over a framework, probably for environmental protection. There was no apparent change in the location or configuration of the fuselage

4. the fuselage had a length of approximately 160 feet and The canvas hooding over one end precluded precise length measurement. The unhooded end tapered to a point 16 feet above the ground. This pointed end was covered with form-fitting canvas which revealed a rectangular shape atop the fuselage. From a point the pointed end, it extended along the top of, and apparently faired into, the fuselage. The fuselage was over 80 percent canvas covered The two small segments which were not covered appeared to be metallic.

5. Wing, tail, and propulsion components have not been identified either attached to the fuselage or stored in the plant area. At present, then, a firm assessment of the vehicle cannot be made. Inferentially, it may be a mockup or prototype model of a new aircraft (perhaps a large seaplane) or a vehicle with aerohydrodynamic characteristics. Beriev can be associated with both.

6. In a possibly related development, significant expansion of the concrete parking apron (Figure 1) is under way at Taganrog Seaplane Station , which is a test and flyaway base for Plant 86. Earth fill to accomplish the apron expansion is being taken primarily from an embankment which flanked the concrete access taxiway between the plant and the seaplane station. This will result in a significantly wider access to the parking apron. When completed, the expansion will add 3.7 acres of new parking space to the apron.

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